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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

REPORT

SUBJECT The Lenin Foundry in Nowa Huta:
Equipment and Production

DATE DISTR. 6 March 1957

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REFERENCES

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DATE OF INFO.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [redacted] the equipment at present installed in the Lenin Foundry in Nowa Huta consisted of two blast furnaces; an open hearth shop with five furnaces, all Siemens-Martin type, two of which were fixed and ~~the others~~, tipping; a blooming mill; and a hot strip mill.

2. The hot strip mill produced 1.2 million tons of medium and thick mild steel plate, the finest being 4 mm. This was [redacted] just under 50 percent of the capacity of the works; it was hoped to reach a figure of 3 million tons by 1970.¹

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3. Current plans included a third blast furnace and a cold rolling mill. The latter will produce .01-mm. mild steel and will be completed in 1957 if credit is available, otherwise 1958.

4. Nowa Huta used domestic ore and scrap, but relied also on [redacted] ore and, more recently, on ore from [redacted]

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5. All the pig produced in the works was used in the works. [redacted] the mill was short of pig and [redacted] was working at reduced capacity. [redacted] the ingots appeared to be loaded at intervals of approximately three minutes.

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6. No. 1 furnace was fixed, and all furnaces were gas-fired. There were four coke batteries, each of 120 ovens. They were situated some distance from the furnaces, at the opposite end of the works, and the gas was piped from the ovens to the furnaces. The coke was pulverized by the machine which also charged the ovens. This was a twenty-two hour process, including pulverizing, for each oven.

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7. No hard or alloy steel was produced.

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8. Toluol and toluene ~~were~~ produced as byproducts in the works. Some byproducts ~~were~~ shipped elsewhere for further processing. 2. ~~... ..~~

9. [] the Ministry of Foreign Trade in Warsaw described the Nowa Huta works as a white elephant. Little of the steel produced is required in Poland itself and at least 80 percent is exported, mainly to Communist China. Poland, to maintain production, has to purchase expensive ore [] to keep it going. Both the ore and the finished plate have to be transported long distances, e.g. from Gdynia. [] the works did not and [] never could be made to pay, but there was little the Poles could do about it now since cutting or abandoning production would mean not only a huge economic loss, but it would create an even greater social problem. 18,000 workers had been brought, many under compulsion, to Nowa Huta, and they could never be resettled.

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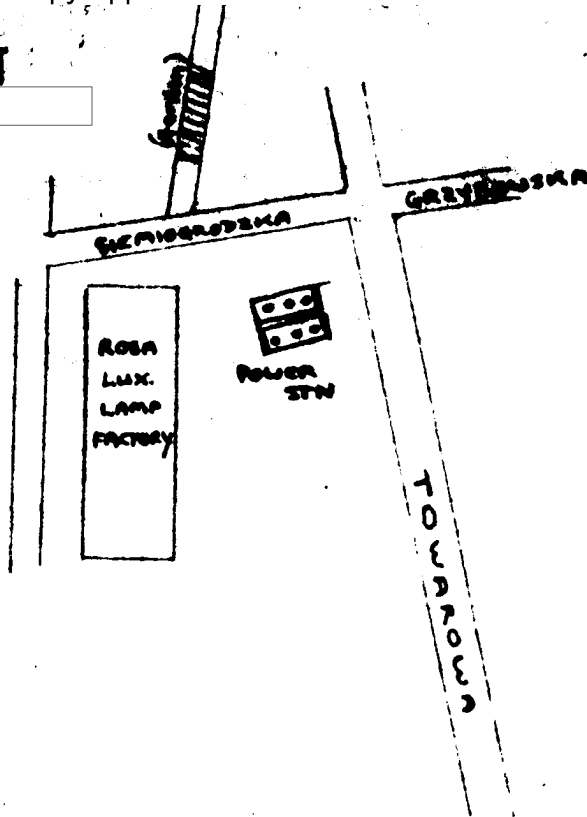
1. [] Comment. The figure of 3 million given in paragraph 2 above, [] included the production of the cold rolling mill and also allows for the additional blast furnace, []

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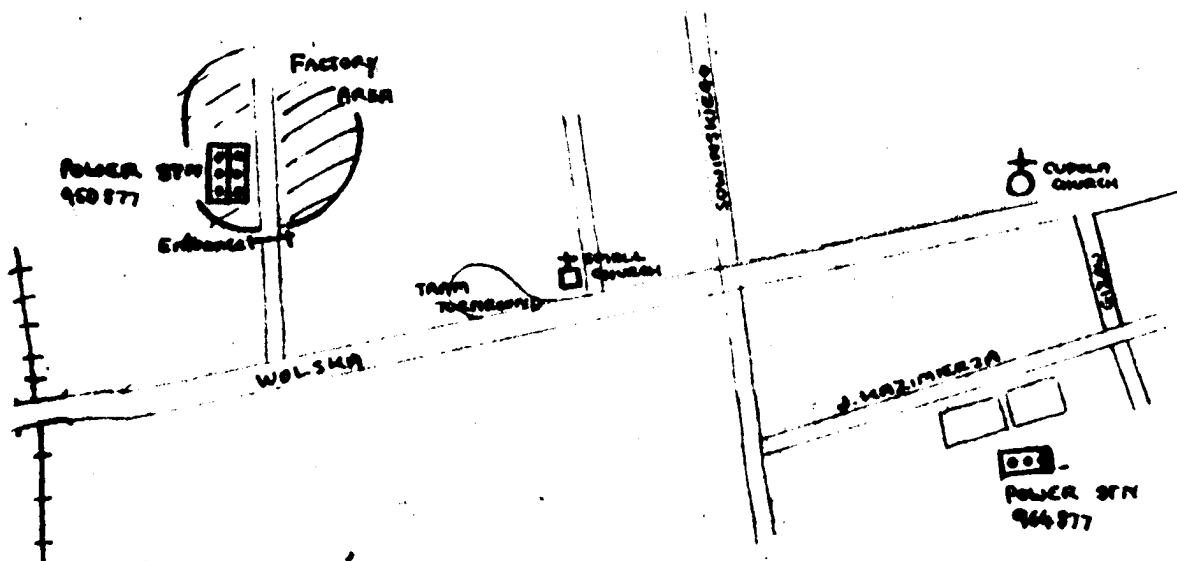
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